

1 1. In Cambodia, the government has made little progress
2 in its efforts to reopen the Mekong River, and the chances
3 are slim that it will succeed in time for the next resupply
4 convoy tentatively scheduled for early March. Khmer Communist
5 forces are increasing pressure in the coutnryside and against
6 the capital's southwestern defenses guarding the approaches
7 to Pochentong. A general war weariness and weakening of will
8 is evident within the FANK forces, and we believe the military
9 situation will continue to deteriorate. In this situation,
10 it is not possible to predict the course of events over the
11 next few weeks. There is a considerable danger that the
12 Communists will be able to cripple Pochentong, or that
13 a key FANK unit will collapse or the
14 Lon Nol government itself will be overthrown. Any of these
15 eventualities could bring the war to a sudden end. On the
16 other hand, timely U.S. supplemental aid might provide a
17 psychological boost to the government that would enable it
 to continue fighting.